
LESSON 13

SERVICE DOCTRINE: UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Introduction

Purpose	The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand the Marine Corps' role in joint operations at the operational level. We will do this by examining the strategic concepts set forth in the Navy Marine Corps white paper entitled <i>"Forward . . . From the Sea."</i>
Importance of the Study	In today's atmosphere of shrinking defense budgets and uncertain threats, the DoD is being asked to perform a wide variety of missions across a broad spectrum of conflict. With the increase in "joint" operations, it is imperative that Marine officers understand the capabilities the Marine Corps provides its joint force commanders.
Relationship to Other Lessons	This lesson provides you an overview of Marine Corps doctrine at the operational level of war. Use it with Lessons 14, 15, and 16. Together they provide a foundation for each service doctrine. These lessons explain how each service prepares its forces to function at the operational level of war.
Background	<p>In 1992, the Navy and the Marine Corps developed a white paper entitled <i>". . . From The Sea."</i> This paper presented a new strategic vision for each service as it prepared to move into the 21st century, focusing on providing the nation a Navy-Marine Corps Total Force team of "naval expeditionary force, shaped for joint operations, operating forward from the sea, and tailored for national needs." The new direction of the Naval service would focus on operations in the littoral regions of the world.</p> <p><i>"Forward . . . From The Sea"</i> was published two years later, expanding and amplifying the original concepts presented in <i>". . . From the Sea."</i></p>
Study Time	This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 1.5 hours of study.

Educational Objectives

Doctrine	Summarize the relationship between Marine Corps service doctrine and joint doctrine. [JPME Area 2d]
Littorals	Describe the three operational scenarios in which joint forces could be employed in the littorals.
Marine Corps Vision	Examine the Marine Corps vision for the future as developed in <i>"Forward . . . From the Sea."</i>
JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)	2/d/.5

Marine Corps Doctrine

Background

Marine Corps Officers must be well-versed in how the MAGTF fights at the operational level of war. They must also be aware of how MAGTFs and the Marine Corps structure fit into the Department of Defense's operational plans.

Marine Corps Capabilities

The Marine Corps provides CINCs with a wide variety of capabilities that can be employed across the full spectrum of military operations.

"Forward...From the Sea"

As the Corps moves into the next century, it will employ technology, strategic decision making, and superior personnel to provide the nation with an enhanced amphibious warfare capability.

Required Readings

Operational Level of War Readings

- Mundy, Jr., Carl E. (Gen, USMC). "Complementary Capabilities from the Sea." *Joint Forces Quarterly* (Summer 1993). Read pp. 17 through 21. Find this reading in the *Operational Level of War Readings*, Annex B, pp. B-3 to B-7. This article focuses on joint warfighting and those capabilities the Marine Corps brings to support the joint warfighting concept.
 - *Forward . . . From the Sea*. Navy-Marine Corps White Paper (1994). Find this reading in the *Operational Level of War Readings*, Annex B, pp. B-9 to B-18. This paper discusses the Navy-Marine Corps operational focus and strategic vision for the 21st century.
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MCDP 1, *Warfighting*

MCDP 1, *Warfighting* (1997). Read the entire volume. This publication provides the essence of the Marine Corps' warfighting ethos in support of joint operations.

Issues For Consideration

Marine Corps Capabilities

In the article "Complementary Capabilities from the Sea," General Mundy discusses the capabilities the Marine Corps brings to the joint environment. Compare these capabilities with those represented in the white paper *Forward . . . From the Sea*.

Future Vision

Describe the vision for the future of the Marine Corps as presented in *Forward . . . From the Sea*. Discuss how this relates to the joint warfighting concept presented in MCDP-1.

Scenarios for Littorals

Outline the three operational scenarios for calling up joint forces in the littorals.